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of the act of contempt to serve as first judge of the matter. It is the committee itself which reports the matter to the parent body, acting at once as victim and prosecutor. I question the soundness of this form of proceeding and the bill, I have introduced, would change this procedure. Basically, this bill provides a screening committee to which the complaint of contempt is brought and it is this screening committee, not the committee which has been subject to the action complained of, which would act as the agency reporting the matter to the parent body.

This new procedure commends itself because it places in the hands of an impartial body the investigation of the charge of contempt and does so in a manageable way. Surely the House or Senate could be considered impartial bodies to investigate the charge, but considerations of time prevent this and there is no practical way in which outside witnesses could be heard on the question of guilt if the entire House or Senate heard the matter. There is real question if the committee which complains of contempt can properly be charged with the responsibility of impartially weighing the evidence to determine if a contempt should be reported to the parent body.

This committee to investigate contempt charges would be named by the presiding officers of the House and Senate respectively and would serve as a special committee. The committee would have seven members and be divided four to three along party lines. The creation of this committee, and its operation in the important area of protecting the Congress and its proceedings from the interference of those wishing to undermine its effectiveness, would provide a strong safeguard of the rights of those charged with contempt and would make more meaningful this type of protection for the Congress.

JUDICIAL PROCEDURES

I have also introduced legislation which would provide for a declaratory judgment mechanism in connection with congressional contempt proceedings. These two proposals would represent a great step forward in the way in which the Congress deals with the contumacy of witnesses appearing before its committees.

The provisions of the declaratory judgment bill would be highly beneficial in that they would permit the clarification of the very difficult issues that often underlie potential contempt situations without resort to the difficult quasi-criminal procedure surrounding an actual contempt citation. Often the underlying point in a contempt situation is lost by concentration on the contumacy of the witness and not on the issue upon which the refusal to testify or produce papers is based.

Many recall, I am sure, the contempt citations offered against officials of the Port of New York Authority in 1960. It would have been far better had we been able to raise the issues of Federal-State relations that lay at the heart of the matter for consideration by a Federal court, through the declaratory judgment

procedure, rather than using, as we did, the criminal contempt mechanism that was necessitated when a witness refused to produce the information requested by the committee.

This declaratory judgment procedure would be open only to the Congress and not to witnesses. It would serve as a means of expediting congressional action, and could not be used as a means to deter the proper functioning of the Congress or its committees. Further, the use of the declaratory judgment's mechanism is optional and need not be invoked. Of course, there will be many contempt situations that will not raise issues calling for immediate determination by the courts. However, many situations do arise where there is a need for a clarification of the underlying issue of contempt without concern for the fact that the witness has failed to divulge information.

Linking this with my other proposal to establish a special committee in both Houses of the Congress, to consider contempt situations, it would be the function of that committee, not only to make recommendations as to whether a contempt citation should issue, but whether the Congress should obtain from a court of the United States, a declaration of the legal relations between the Congress and the recalcitrant witness. The House of Congress concerned would then be free to act on the recommendations of the committee as it sees fit.

With the tremendous workload facing the Congress there is a great need for improving the procedures of the House of Representatives. These two proposals represent substantial steps forward in the field of contempt procedures, increasing both the speed and the skill with which the Congress can deal with contempt situations.

A BILL TO EXTEND THE PROVISIONS OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT OF 1965 AND TO INCREASE THE FUNDING LEVELS AUTHORIZED BY THAT LEGISLATION

(Mr. REID of New York (at the request of Mr. WILLIAMS of Pennsylvania) was granted permission to extend his remarks at this point in the Record and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. REID of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today a bill to extend the provisions of the Older Americans Act of 1965 and to increase the funding levels authorized by that legislation.

Americans born today can expect to reach 70 years of age, compared to those born in 1900 who had a life expectancy of 47 years. The number of Americans over 65 today is equal to the combined population of 20 States. The special needs of these senior citizens represent a national challenge, as the President stated in his recent message to the Congress.

The Congress first recognized this need in 1965 with the unanimous passage of the Older Americans Act, which declared that it is the responsibility of government at all levels to assist these citizens to achieve full and free enjoyment of their later years.

The act focused on three basic areas. First, it created the Administration on Aging to serve as the coordinating unit within the Federal Government in all matters of concern to older people.

Among its other responsibilities, the Administration on Aging carries out two grant programs authorized by the act. Title III provides funds to the States for community planning, services, and training in accordance with a State plan that is administered by a State agency whose sole responsibility is to administer this plan and whose concern is improving the lives of senior citizens. Some 51 States and territories now have such agencies and some 43 plans have been approved. It is expected that community programs under this title will total 800 to 1,100 by the end of this fiscal year.

The third major thrust of the Older Americans Act is the grant program authorized by titles IV and V to provide direct grants to conduct research into problems of the aged and to develop new techniques for meeting these problems, and to support specialized training programs for persons working with the aged. By the end of 1966, 39 grants had been made to institutions in 25 States under these titles.

The bill I am introducing would extend the grant provisions of this act through 1972. Further, authorizations for fiscal year 1968 are made in the amounts of \$10,550,000 for grants to the States and \$6,400,000 for research, demonstration, and training direct project grants, as well as such sums as may be necessary for the next 4 fiscal years. The increased funding is expected to support 240 to 300 new programs by the States and an additional 70 to 80 new research projects. One such research program that is contemplated by the Administration on Aging is the development of nutritional services that meet the needs of senior citizens.

Mr. Speaker, identical bills have been introduced by the chairman of the Education and Labor Committee, Mr. PERKINS, and by the chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, Senator HARRISON WILLIAMS. In the 2 years that this legislation has been in force, considerable progress has been made in reaching senior citizens in their home communities who can benefit most from these programs. The extensions and revisions contemplated by my bill are important in sustaining this effort on the Federal, State, and local levels.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW

(Mr. BOB WILSON (at the request of Mr. WILLIAMS of Pennsylvania) was granted permission to extend his remarks at this point in the Record and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. BOB WILSON. Mr. Speaker, the American people have a right to know that their own money is being spent in vast amounts by the Johnson administration to brainwash them at their own expense.

In fact, the Johnson administration is spending nearly \$75 million more for self-glorification each year than it costs to support the Congress of the United

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States and the Supreme Court combined. It spends some \$425 million a year of the public's hard-earned money to sell its story to the same people who put up the money.

Now I submit that it is understandable why the Johnson administration goes in for this record spending. The administration has demonstrated an unequalled inability to deal with either our domestic or our foreign problems, and it needs this vast publicity slush fund to try to cover up—to make flat failure look like rosy success.

How else can you explain the fact that the LBJ-Humphrey-Kennedy three-ring circus is spending more this year on propaganda than the combined expenditures of the two major American news associations, the three largest networks, and the 10 biggest American newspapers. As the Associated Press reports, straight-faced:

Much of the expenditure is devoted to convincing Americans that what their Government does is for their welfare.

For example, Sargent Shriver, Kennedy's brother-in-law and head of the scandal-racked poverty program, keeps 46 staffers grinding out favorable publicity.

"With Sarge, when something goes wrong with the program, you step up the publicity," one of his public relations men was quoted as saying. On this program which has helped administration wardheelers more than the poor, the coverup has obviously been paid for by you, Mr. and Mrs. American.

Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara has 3,000 publicity personnel and a budget of over \$32 million to make the American people see the war in Vietnam through his eyes. In Vietnam alone, McNamara stables a publicity staff of 500—roughly one for each American plane lost in combat there.

The space agency, NASA, sent out 2,400 speakers last year to boost its un-earthly program at symposiums and concerts. Some 2,700 radio stations are supplied weekly with 5-minute taped NASA radio shows and 1,600 with 15-minute shows. Each month, 500 television stations—about 200 of them color stations—also get a short NASA film. These propagandists say not one word about the huge Soviet military space effort which is a secret from the American people.

The Army alone plans to turn out 250 films this year. Government film or slide shows are available to the number of 6,000.

The Department of Agriculture spends \$8.9 million a year on publicity; HEW, \$7.7 million; and the AEC, \$6.1 million.

No wonder you, the people, get only one side—the administration side—on almost every development and program. No wonder the truth is a casualty and people wonder what is really going on. Neither the Red Chinese nor the Soviet Russians have been submitted to such a costly brainwashing campaign. The attempt is to make the incredible credible—to make Alice in Wonderland seem real—by taking the American people through the administration's looking glass. The effort is to achieve the impossible—to make the administration look respectable, responsible, and reliable.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF TASK FORCE ON AGRICULTURE

(Mr. LANGEN (at the request of Mr. WILLIAMS of Pennsylvania) was granted permission to extend his remarks at this point in the Record and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. LANGEN. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the House Republican task force on agriculture, I am pleased to announce the appointment of two additional members: the Honorable BOB PRICE of Texas, and the Honorable SAM STEIGER of Arizona.

These gentlemen have, on the basis of their outstanding background in agricultural and rural affairs and expressed interest, qualified themselves for this assignment. I look forward to working with them and the other members of the task force during the 90th Congress.

ROBERT E. SHERIDAN—A TRIBUTE

(Mr. MESKILL (at the request of Mr. WILLIAMS of Pennsylvania) was granted permission to extend his remarks at this point in the Record and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. MESKILL. Mr. Speaker, on April 2, my longtime friend and adviser, a member of my staff, Bob Sheridan, died without warning at his home in New Britain. He was 51. His loss was a tremendous personal shock to everyone who knew him and worked with him. Its true dimensions will be measured in the coming weeks and months.

I owe more to Bob than I can possibly say. The fact that I am in Congress today is due in large part to Bob Sheridan's skill and judgment. His interests and his skills were manifold. He led a many-sided rich life. Politics was one of his greatest loves and a subject which he understood deeply. He was a rare man who not only could sense every subtle change in the ground currents running beneath and through his community but who also knew how best to respond to these changes.

His friends will long remember him as a lover of life and as a master craftsman. His principle job at the time of his death was public relations director for Central Connecticut State College in New Britain from which he graduated. He was an ardent partisan for the college and for the general interests of education.

The New Britain Herald reflected the sense of community loss in a beautiful editorial published last Tuesday, the day of Bob's funeral. It expresses my feelings perfectly and in tribute to his memory and in respect to his family, I offer it at this point in the Record.

ROBERT E. SHERIDAN

He was a man of such quick, good wit, of such wide interests, of such far-ranging curiosity, of such clever imagination, that it was perhaps difficult to think of him as a serious, intellectual man. But Robert E. Sheridan was all of those things, a man of all seasons to many people.

His death on Sunday was a jolt, a shocking jolt. This was a man in the prime of life and activity, involved as he always was involved with many projects, many things, many ideas.

His obituary told of the great diversity of his activities: As public affairs director for Central Connecticut State College; as a

prominent state Republican; as one interested in community activities; as a former school principal; as a radio announcer, and much more.

He knew and loved art, and surrounded himself with many original works of various modern schools. He loved theater, was a perceptive critic of it. Likewise, he appreciated great films, good writing, good music.

In politics, he had no peer in the realm of campaign organization. Sheridan was a man of bold and provocative ideas in politics; a strong influence in Republican campaign tactics. Yet, he was such a fair-minded person that he could number close friends high in Democratic circles—even during intensely partisan circumstances.

CCSC had no more fiercely partisan supporter. A graduate of the school (then known as Teachers College of Connecticut), he was in the forefront of the emergence of CCSC as a college of major proportions and dimensions. He fought for the college with a vigor that bordered on outright dedication, and he was a persuasive advocate when there was a need to be.

Bob Sheridan was often the "cool" man when others around him stormed or raged. Not that he was without emotion. But it was more in keeping for him to see things in their bigger perspective, and for him to assert himself by example of calmness and restraint.

We will not belabor the obvious to say that those who knew him were shocked by his untimely death. But we will suggest that this man was a dear friend to many people, and that in his way he enriched the lives of those with whom he came in contact. He will be sorely missed.

Brc file
TORRINGTON REGISTER QUESTIONS U.S. BACKING FOR FIAT OF ITALY-SOVIET AUTO DEAL

(Mr. MESKILL (at the request of Mr. WILLIAMS of Pennsylvania) was granted permission to extend his remarks at this point in the Record and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. MESKILL. Mr. Speaker, under unanimous consent, I am submitting for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a recent editorial from the Torrington Register, an outstanding daily newspaper in my district, in which the editor criticizes proposed U.S. support of the automobile deal between the Soviet Union and the Fiat Automobile Co. of Italy.

I second the Register's call for the closest congressional examination of this proposal. In calling this thoughtful editorial to the attention of the Congress, I want to point out that the people of my district are very familiar with advanced machinery. They understand machines and machine tools. They know how different machines can be used for different purposes. They appreciate how the knowledge displayed in one kind of machine can be adapted to machines for other purposes. We have a great deal of varied and highly sophisticated manufacturing in the Sixth District of Connecticut. In short, our people appreciate the tremendous, intangible value that is represented by \$50 million worth of the finest machinery our country is capable of producing. Of course, it has a strategic value and, of course, this deal ought to be reviewed in closest detail by Congress. I urge my colleagues to read this editorial:

WHAT'S "STRATEGIC?"

Washington's intention to permit an Italian firm to purchase American equipment

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for an automobile manufacturing plant in the Soviet Union may signal the end of the policy of prohibiting the export of "strategic" goods to communist countries.

Certainly the question of what is "strategic" is open to debate. In a strict interpretation, virtually everything shipped to the Soviet Union aids the Soviet war machine by freeing materials and capital needed in the consumer area.

Even under the most liberal interpretation, however, it is difficult to justify the approval of \$50 million worth of U.S. auto manufacturing equipment. Among the items approved are foundry and heat-treating equipment, stamping and shaping tools, transfer lines, lathes, material-handling equipment and painting and upholstery tools.

More important than the equipment is the advanced technology which goes with it. The House Banking subcommittee, which approved the loan of \$50 million to Italy through the Export-Import Bank for the deal, admitted "U.S. machine tool technology may play a larger part in the proposed auto plant than has been forecast earlier."

In light of this admission by an official agency, approval of the sale becomes still more questionable. If it goes through, the door will be opened much wider to the sale of previously restricted material and technical know-how.

As the President and Congress both have approved the deal, there is little chance of changing the decision now. But the subject of strategic sales to communist countries is due for a more thorough discussion in Congress than it received on this issue.

RESOLUTION OF KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF STREET FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS SUPPORTS HIGHER EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1967

(Mr. SHRIVER (at the request of Mr. WILLIAMS of Pennsylvania) was granted permission to extend his remarks at this point in the RECORD and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. SHRIVER. Mr. Speaker, the Kansas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators recently adopted a resolution concerning the Higher Education Amendments of 1967 at its meeting at Kansas State Teachers College in Emporia.

This resolution was presented by Mr. Paul Chrisman, director of financial aids, Wichita State University.

The increasing numbers of students seeking higher education opportunities coupled with rising costs of getting an education require our continued attention and support of student financial aid programs.

Mr. Speaker, I include a copy of the resolution as adopted on March 20, 1967, by the Kansas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. The resolution follows:

Whereas the continued need for financial aid for students attending institutions of higher education in Kansas appears inevitable, and

Whereas this need involves educational opportunities for great numbers of students of the State of Kansas, and

Whereas such need will inevitably require an increase in allocated funds, and

Whereas most institutions find it extremely difficult to maintain sufficient funding of their diverse financial aid programs, and

Whereas the opportunity to endorse the new bill entitled "Higher Education Amend-

ments of 1967" which has been introduced to Congress presents itself, and

Whereas the Kansas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators believes in and is committed to the optimal use of funds that may be used to meet deserving students' needs.

Be It Therefore Resolved by the Kansas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators that Congress be urged to proceed with all due expedition the passage of such amendments that provide for:

(1) Institutions to borrow student loan funds from the Commissioner of Education as an alternative to receive Federal capital contributions that must be matched

(2) Work-Study assistance to students being used as matching funds for Educational Opportunity Grants.

(3) Federal funds for Work-Study to be scheduled on a 80%-20% ratio

(4) Students being able to work 40 hours a week on the Work-Study Program while attending summer classes and (5) Other provisions that will provide students and their institutions the ways and means to plan effectively for the future growth and development of their State, Nation, and their resources.

OPPORTUNITY CRUSADE—SUBSTITUTE FOR THE WAR ON POVERTY

(Mr. GOODELL (at the request of Mr. WILLIAMS of Pennsylvania) was granted permission to extend his remarks at this point in the RECORD and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. GOODELL. Mr. Speaker, Mr. QUIE and I and other Republicans will soon be introducing an "opportunity crusade" for the poor. This will be a complete substitute for the languishing and confused war on poverty.

The opportunity crusade involves total Federal expenditures of \$1.7 billion, \$300 million less than President Johnson's budget proposals. By involving private industry and States in the opportunity crusade for the poor, a total of \$2.4 billion would be available "to revive the hopes and realistic aspirations of tired, cynical, and hopeless prisoners of poverty."

The opportunity crusade builds upon the solid foundation of a free-enterprise economy. By providing realistic incentives for private employers and individuals to develop on-the-job training programs, it also offers respectable and productive jobs, rather than dead end, make-work, public employment. Participants in jobs or in training under the opportunity crusade number 1,475,350 as compared to 423,000 under the administration of the war on poverty.

The opportunity crusade would completely dismantle the Office of Economic Opportunity under Sargent Shriver, eliminating or redirecting existing programs. The community action phases of the poverty war would be transferred to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Job Corps would be replaced by residential skill centers administered by vocational education officials.

Other new proposals by the Republicans include:

First. An industry youth corps in which youth 16 to 22 would be offered private productive employment and on-the-job training. The Federal Government would pay 25 percent of enrollees'

wages for 1 year under conditions that offered promise of long-term employment.

Second. Expansion of Headstart and a new Early Years program for poor children up to third-grade level.

Third. New military career centers under the Secretary of Defense for volunteers who are otherwise unable to meet Selective Service requirements for military service.

Fourth. Convert the present in-school neighborhood Youth Corps program into a major work study program for youngsters likely to drop out of high school for economic reasons. The program would be transferred from the Labor Department to the Office of Education, and be expanded to include part-time employment in private industry. Funds would be made available on a 50-50 matching basis for local schools to hire a coordinator to counsel, test, and, find appropriate jobs for needy students.

Fifth. A new State bonus program would be offered to encourage States to contribute up to a total of \$200 million, matched by the Federal Government, to supplement community action and Headstart programs.

Sixth. VISTA, the so-called domestic peace corps, would be supplemented with a new "Hometown VISTA" to enlist local volunteers in the opportunity crusade for the poor.

Seventh. States would be brought in as partners in the opportunity crusade and all earmarking of community action funds would be eliminated.

Eighth. Employment services would be automated to provide high-speed, reliable joining of individuals with available jobs.

Ninth. A long overdue national skill survey would be made to pinpoint the thousands of skilled jobs for which qualified applicants cannot be found.

Tenth. Tax incentives would be given employers by a new Human Investment Act to encourage hiring and training of the unskilled.

Eleventh. The elderly and retired, who can be accurately characterized as the "forgotten poor," will be permitted and encouraged to work and obtain a livable income without loss of social security benefits.

Although the opportunity crusade would spend \$300 million less than the President's poverty program, funds for new Headstart and unearmarked community action would be substantially above the President's proposal. Because of private and State involvement, more needy people would be reached and helped by the opportunity crusade at the \$1.7 billion expenditure level than by the faltering, misfiring war on poverty at the \$2 billion expenditure level.

The war on poverty is in desperate need of major redirection. It should not be eliminated, it should be revamped and put on a realistic basis. Only a small percentage of the poor have received meaningful assistance as a result of the billions of dollars in the present war on poverty. After 3 years, the poverty war has spent \$4 billion of the taxpayers' money and created a poverty bureaucracy of 91,000 administrators. The poor have lost faith in the high promises

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of those who thought they could solve difficult problems by simply spending billions of dollars through a new poverty agency in Washington. If the administration fails to take the drastic steps long overdue to overhaul completely the present poverty war, Congress may well repeal the entire program and the good will go down with the bad. The plight of the poor in America today is a growing and major crisis that must be met

realistically. The opportunity crusade, by reinforcing and redirecting portions of the poverty program with good potential and by starting new innovative programs, will revive the hopes of the poor and the confidence of the American people.

Following is a chart comparing opportunities and expenditures available through the opportunity crusade with those under the war on poverty:

Program	Total opportunities	War on poverty	New Federal authorization for opportunity crusade	Total funds for opportunity crusade	Budget proposal for war on poverty
Job Corps.....	43,350	38,000	\$230,000,000	\$230,000,000	\$295,000,000
Skill centers.....	(31,350)		(190,000,000)	(190,000,000)	
Military career.....	(12,000)		(40,000,000)	(40,000,000)	
NYC work study.....	1,295,000	295,000	140,000,000	202,000,000	321,000,000
In-school.....	(295,000)		(115,000,000)	(152,000,000)	(1)
Coordinator.....	(1,000,000)		(25,000,000)	(50,000,000)	
NYC work training.....	107,000	60,000	100,000,000	330,000,000	
Out-of-school.....	(13,500)		(30,000,000)	(40,000,000)	
Industry Youth Corps.....	(93,500)		(70,000,000)	(280,000,000)	
Community action.....			550,000,000	762,500,000	808,000,000
Total versatile unearmarked funds.....			(550,000,000)	(762,500,000)	(443,000,000)
Urban CAP's.....			(243,000,000)	(303,750,000)	
Rural CAP's.....			(207,000,000)	(258,750,000)	
Bonds.....			(100,000,000)	(200,000,000)	
Total present earmarked—Nelson-Schauer, special impact, legal aid, health centers.....			0	0	(365,000,000)
Headstart.....			575,000,000	793,750,000	472,000,000
Preschool.....			(340,000,000)	(425,000,000)	(337,000,000)
Early years.....			(135,000,000)	(168,750,000)	(135,000,000)
Bonds.....			(100,000,000)	(200,000,000)	
VISTA.....			26,000,000	26,000,000	31,000,000
Migrant and seasonal workers.....			27,000,000	27,000,000	27,000,000
Rural loans.....			2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Work experience.....			70,000,000	70,000,000	70,000,000
Automation of job opportunity data.....			20,000,000	20,000,000	0
Skill survey.....			5,000,000	5,000,000	0
Administration.....			0	0	16,000,000
Other funds.....			0	0	17,500,000
Total.....			1,745,500,000	2,458,750,000	2,060,000,000

*Total New York City.

THE OLDEST AND MOST DECADENT FLEET IN THE MARITIME WORLD

(Mr. GOODELL (at the request of Mr. WILLIAMS of Pennsylvania) was granted permission to extend his remarks at this point in the RECORD and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. GOODELL. Mr. Speaker, the neglected and scandalous state of the American maritime industry has been vividly portrayed by Helen Delich Bentley in an article which appeared in the April 7, 1967, issue of the Baltimore Sun.

In her exposé on the present condition of the American merchant marine fleet, Mrs. Bentley makes a startling and embarrassing assertion: the most wealthy and powerful nation on earth, the United States, has the "oldest and most decadent fleet in the maritime world."

More than just feeling a twinge to our national pride, the United States should be concerned with what effect this preoccupation has on our national security and our ability to fulfill our military commitments.

Exactly 1 year ago, the House Republican Policy Committee issued a state-

ment to alert the America public to the crisis in our shipbuilding efforts and subsequent seafight capabilities. At that time, House Republicans called upon the administration to initiate corrective steps in order to avoid what well could prove to be a disastrous situation. Recently released reports by appropriate congressional committees have justified this skepticism and concern.

Mr. Speaker, it is with the hope that this lucid illustration of the facts will prompt the necessary action to, if not eliminate, at least minimize this serious situation that I include the following article by Mrs. Bentley:

LIBERIAN, UNITED STATES SHIPS SAD CONTRAST (By Helen Delich Bentley)

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN.—It was a dismal, rainy day with peaspout fog enveloping the outer reaches of Yokohama Harbor. One could still see from one nearby pier to another and one end of the long piers to the other.

The atmosphere was filled with irony as well as thick clouds of mist.

BLACK PAINT GLEAMED

Looming high alongside the outfitting dock was a proud, spanking new 96,000-dead-weight-ton tanker, rising majestically some

60 feet from the waterline to her shiny spotless deck.

The new coat of black paint gleamed on her hull, which extended for several football fields in length. Even through the thick haze, the white decks shone.

Climbing up the long gangway, reaching from the pier across 20 feet of water and up to the deck, was a feat in itself. Anyone concerned with heights would undoubtedly panic upon looking down from the aluminum gangway to the black water far below.

A "BABY" TANKER

One couldn't help but wonder about the difficulties a pilot must encounter climbing up and down a Jacob's ladder on the new breed of sea giants when they are sailing without cargo, and their full height rides above the water line.

The melodic name of the 96,000-tonner—a "baby" tanker by today's standards since 300,000-tonners already are under construction and 500,000-tonners are in the planning stage—is the Allegro. Therein lies the irony.

The Allegro was built by Basil Goulandris, a prominent Greek shipowner who at one time had substantial interests in American-flag ships but has since sold them.

Goulandris built the ship for a long-term charter to an American-based oil company, Esso. That charter not only would assure the Greek owner full payment on the cost of the vessel but also a profit.

TWO AMERICANS THERE

Since on that particular day the ship was being turned over to her owners by the shipyard, the Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries Co., Ltd. (referred to in Japan as I.H.I.), it meant her flag was to be raised with pomp and ceremony.

Therefore, some ten Japanese officials of I.H.I. lined up on the port side of the stern opposite all of the Greek officers who were to sail the ship. Standing in the center were some Greeks, Japanese, and two Americans.

When everybody was dutifully standing at attention, a record player was turned on and the strains of the Liberian national anthem came out loud and clear. As the music began, Chief Mate John Koukis slowly began raising a red, white and blue flag—that of Liberia.

TIMED PERFECTLY

He had practiced his timing perfectly so that as the anthem finished, so, too, had he completed his task of pulling the Liberian flag to the top of the halyard.

As the music ended and the one-star flag waved in the breeze, the Spectators clapped, marking the addition of another modern, gigantic ship to the fleet of the African nation.

And then someone pointed over the side to a rusty, sad looking freighter moored at the nearby repair pier. She, too, was flying a red-white-and-blue emblem, but her blue field containing 50 white stars. This seemingly neglected rustbucket, in which two men had recently been asphyxiated, is part of the American merchant marine.

The 27-year-old vessel, of World War II vintage, like the rest of the obsolete American-flag fleet is still struggling to keep vital American commerce and goods flowing.

SAME FOR 85 PER CENT

Eighty-five per cent of the American merchant marine is in the same decrepit patched-up condition, with their owners wondering how much longer they can keep these vessels going.

Where the Liberian-flag Allegro has an automated engine room, ample recreation rooms, a swimming pool, and even an elevator leading to the engine room, the American-flag ship's machinery is so old and worn that it is difficult for her owners to keep her sailing without extensive expenditures for repairs. The crew quarters on none of the World War II vintage vessels are anything